

Timp Hike Included Rare Look at Mountain Goat

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Special to The Herald

Autumn in Utah is simply a hiker's paradise. Leaf strewn trails, trees and bushes of every color imaginable.

With a sense of urgency, we headed for the mountains every weekend, afraid it might be our last mountain hike before the snow comes.

Amid weather reports of impending storms, on Saturday, Oct. 5, we decided this just might really be our last chance to hike to the summit of Mt. Timpanogos until next summer.

We packed up the usual gear — camera, sandwiches, sweaters and our trusty walking sticks, and headed

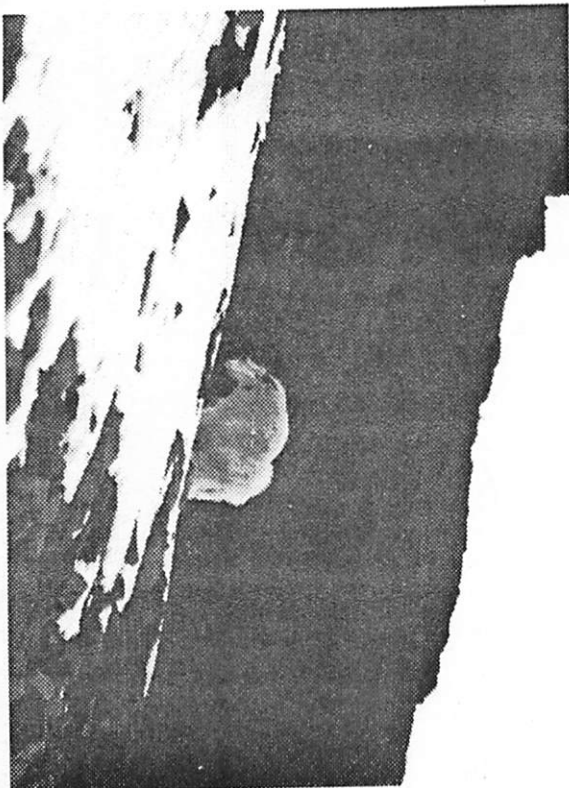
for Timpanooske campground, where the trail begins. Getting a late start, we realize it's over 18 miles to the summit and back, and likely we'll be coming down in the dark, so we hustled.

After several hours we circled around the basin and then started up the last group of switchbacks, joking as we went about it looking more like goat country than people country, with all the peaks and ledges. Then, just as we came around one of the switchbacks, we were face to face with two very real, and seemingly very large, Rocky Mountain goats, which happened to be coming down the same trail we were on.

You might recall back in 1981, in Rocky Mountain goats were trans-



David Wankasky inches close to a rare wilderness sight.



This mountain billy goat blocked the trail for 20 minutes.

enjoying this rare sight, we realized it didn't seem like he had any intention of giving up the trail. As we inched forward, he would run a few steps towards us, making sure we kept our distance. This game went on for 20 minutes, which is just about long enough to get good and cold at that elevation.

He must have tired of this seesaw game, as he finally left the trail to do some grazing. We passed, rather quickly, and completed

our climb to the summit.

What an amazing feeling, to stand at the top of that mountain and look down on our valley. Words can't describe it.

It was quite a day, a great way to end the hiking season. We did come down in the dark, but it wasn't as lonely as you might think ... we found ourselves literally face to face with four moose, coming up the trail. Too bad it was too dark for pictures!

6 Feb 1986

Aspen String Quartet Sets Provo Performance Monday

1-6-86



Aspen String Quartet, Morris Blackham, Sundy Blackham, Milt Thibault, Carol Gibson, from left, will perform Monday.

Herald 2-6-86

The Provo Chamber Music Series will feature the Aspen String Quartet Monday at 7 p.m., at the Provo City Council Chambers, 359 West Center.

The quartet has played together for a number of years. First violin is Sundy Blackham, second violin is Carol Jean Gibson, violist is Morris Blackham, and cellist is Milton Thibault.

The Aspen String Quartet chose its name while performing at the Aspen Grove Family Camp in North Fork of Provo Canyon.

The quartet members are either currently members or former members of the Utah Valley Symphony. They are string instrument instructors and capable soloists in their own right. They have performed for many groups in Utah County and in Salt Lake City, including benefits, weddings, church functions and for visiting dignitaries.

Performances include the Freedom Festival at Provo, Symphony Guild 1985 Home Show, and the Presidential Inaugural at Utah Technical College.

For additional information, call the Recreation Office.